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meteorology, zoology, and forestry and agriculture. The index and obituary list cover the last five volumes. The work is admirably edited, the index makes all information available, and the book is not only an accurate reference volume but also a work that will interest many general readers.

Panama to Patagonia. The Isthmian Canal and the West Coast Countries. By Charles M. Pepper. With Maps and Illustrations. pp. xxii-400, 8vo. Chicago, A. C. McClurg & Co., 1906.

Mr. Pepper has written a book that is pleasantly unpretentious and handsomely illustrated. The maps are as good as they can be, fully answering their purpose. Statistics, tables of distances, indications in regard to climate and vegetation, abound, and they are mainly correct. The journey of Mr. Pepper encompassed the whole South American coast from Panamá to Punta Arenas, some of the Peruvian interior, and great part of western Bolivia. Most of his observations on the present condition of the countries he visited are just, showing that he saw with unprejudiced and intelligent eyes and listened attentively to good sources of information. There are, of course, a number of misstatements in regard to the early past, and some queer appreciations of art and architecture; but as the author makes no pretence to treat of such matters authoritatively, it would be unjust to chide him. His purpose is "to consider and describe the effect of the Panama Canal on the West Coast countries of South America from the year 1905," and he has honestly endeavoured to attain it. He justly says:

The effort to divorce economic and social forces from places and peoples in order to analyze a principle usually is so barren that I have not attempted it. Places have their significance, and people are the human material. Customs and institutions are only understood properly in their environment.

A. F. B.

Das Problem der Völkerverwandtschaft. Von Dr. Joh. Richard Mucke, ord. Professor an der K. Universität Jurjeff (Dorpat). Greifswald, Verlag von Julius Abel, 1905. (Pr., M. 7.50.)

The main purpose of this book is to disprove the common theory of an "Urvolk," which the author denounces as unscientific, because it constructs, first, an imaginary nation in order to explain the existing ones, and, then, an imaginary country from which said nation is supposed to have spread. To put the discussion upon a more scientific basis he pursues his investigations by a strictly "geographico-statistical" method, collecting facts from all available records of history and ethnology, examining the "geographical individual" from which each observation is recorded, and from the material thus classified in a card catalogue of some 35,000 cards he has gained the conclusion that the idea of a common origin of the nations by migration from some original centre, whether we call it Aryan or otherwise, must be entirely abandoned. His opinion is that every nation has grown up more or less strictly on the same geographical individual which it occupies in the present, and that its origin is due to an amalgamation of highland and lowland peoples. Whether in South America, in ancient Greece, or in Tacitus's Germania, everywhere the same two components of the population present themselves: one, with common characteristics, occupying the low parts of the country, along rivers and by lakes or swamps; the other, with as distinct characteristics of its own, on the hills, interspersed among the former.

Under primitive conditions, when the two components still existed separately, the ethnological unit was the "*horde*," often inadequately called clan, tribe, family,